

Orders conceiued by the Lords of her Maiesties Priuie Councell, and by

her Highnesse speciall direction, commanded to be put in execution for the restraint of killing and eating of flesh this next Lent, and to be executed aswell by the Lord Maior within the Citie and Suburbs of London, and by the Officers of the liberties and exempt places in and about the same, as by order to be prescribed by the Lords Lieutenants of all the Counties of the Realme, to the Iustices of Peace, Lords of Liberties, and Officers of corporate Townes.

1. Febr. xxxix. yere of the Queenes Maiesties reigne.



First her Maiesties pleasure is, vpon her vnderstanding of the great disorders heretofore and especially the last Lent committed in killing and eating flesh in the time of Lent, especially in the Citie of London, & the liberties thereto adioining, that the statute made in the first yere of her Maiesties reigne, for the restraint thereof, be put in due execution by the way of inquisition, and charge of Iuries, and by any other good meanes, both within the Citie and all other places requisite within the Realme.

And for the better knowledge of the trueth of these disorders, and redresse of the inconueniences, the sayd Iuries shall call befoze them, and send for any of the seruants of any Inholders, victuallers, Taverners, and keepers of ordinarie Tables, and such other that vtter victuals, to examine them vpon their corporall othes, what flesh shall bee, or is any day during the Lent season dressed, killed, vttered, or eaten in their houses: which if they shall refuse to doe, then they shall commit to prison the sayd seruants, so refusing vpon their othes to declare the trueth.

And because a great part of this disorder groweth by the Butchers of the City of London, and also of the Countrey, that secretly kill and bring flesh to the Citie: there shall be onely viii. Butchers licenced by the Lord Maior to kill flesh within the sayde Citie and liberties thereof, without paying any thing for their licence, because they shall be bound in reasonable summes of money to obserue such order as shall be prescribed to them.

And euery of these Butchers, to be so licenced, shall be first bound in the summe of two hundred pounds to her Maiesties vse, and the bonds to bee certified to the Queenes Remembrancer in the Eschequer to sell no flesh in the time of Lent, but to such persons as shall be to them speciall warrant from the Lord Maior vnder his hand, and that the Butchers doe truly keepe particular bookes of their dayly sales, and the names of those to whom they shall so sell, with the quantities and the times thereof.

That the Lord Maior giue order to these Butchers, not to sell any flesh but at reasonable prices, and for that purpose the prices shall be set downe by the sayd Lord Maior, such as may be reasonable both for the buyer and seller: and if the Butcher shall breake that order, then to be forthwith discharged, and committed to prison, and another put into his place, and his bond to be certified into the Eschequer to the Queenes benefit.

That the Lord Maior himselfe shall grant no warrant for buying of flesh in Lent, but to such as shall haue and shew to him licence in good writing according to the lawes of the Realme to eat flesh, and the sayd licence to be viewed & registred, first by some two meete persons to be appointed for this purpose by the Lord Maior, and bookes to be kept thereof, to be shewed further when the same shall be required, vntill it be to Ambassadors and Agents of forreine Princes, to whom notwithstanding no further quantitie shall be allowed, then ratably for their owne household, and that such Ambassadors and Agents shall giue to the L. Maior a Certificate weekly, what they shall require to be for their owne tables.

That the L. Maior shall now presently befoze Lent, cause all Inholders, Tablekeepers, victuallers, Alehousekeepers, & Taverners within the Citie and liberties thereof, to appeare befoze him, or such persons as hee shall appoint meete for that purpose: and shall take bonds of euery of them in good summes of money, not vnder one hundred pound a piece to her Maiesties vse, not to vtter any flesh in their houses this Lent time for any respect, except it be for some such person that lieth in their house, and that also hath licence through sickness or other necessary cause, to eat flesh. Bonds shall be taken also of the Poulters, not to vtter any Poultry ware, but to such as shall be likewise licenced to eat flesh, and that such as wil not giue such bonds, that they be secluded from all vtterance of victuall during the Lent season: excepting those Poulters that do ordinarily serue her Maiesties household, of whom like bonds shall be taken by her Maiesties Officers of the Greene cloth.

And for the Butchers and others that come with victuals of flesh out of the Countrey to the Citie, the L. Maior shall cause certaine persons, whereof some to be named to the L. Maior by the Wardens of the Fishmongers, to watch at the gates & other like places in the Suburbs, where flesh may be brought in, to view and search, and to intercept the same. And in case the same shall be found to be brought to any person not warranted nor licenced to eat it, as is aforesaid, then the same to be forfeited and sold at the discretion of the L. Maior, for the vse of the poore in the Hospitals and prisons in the Citie, and the bringers to be imprisoned. And otherwise the Carriers of the said victuals of flesh to be guided to the persons houses that haue licence, with regard therein not to be abused. And this watch to be continued daily during the whole time of Lent: and if any of these watchmen be found negligent and corrupt in his charge, then he to be committed to prison, there to continue during the whole Lent.

And to the end the said Orders may be duly executed, it is thought conuenient, that the L. Maior should send for y^e chiefe Heads of the company of the Fishmongers, and shall cause them to make choise of foure or moe wise and discrete persons of the said Company, and men of good wealth and abilitie, to whom they shall commit the charge to make enquirie after such as shall be found transgressors of the said Orders, who in respect of their trauel bestowed in that behalfe, shall haue the one moitie of such bonds as shall be forfeited by transgressing of the said Orders, and the other moitie to be conuerted vnto godly vses, by the discretion of the Queenes Maiesties High Almoner, specially vpon poore and lame souldiers, with the priuie of some of the Priuie Councill.

And that there may be due execution of the said Orders, aswel without as within the Liberties of the Citie, it is thought conuenient, that they that haue the chiefe charge ouer the places priuiledged & exempt, where any Leets or Law daies are kept, shall authorize vnder their hand and seale foure persons as are aboue mentioned, to make search within the said priuiledged & exempt places for such as shall transgresse the said Orders, and shall for their trauell therein employed, receiue the moitie of the Bonds forfeited, as is aboue mentioned. And for the auoiding of corruption and partialitie in the saide persons, it shall be necessary to take their othes, and giue bond in some good & large summes, to see (as much as in them lieth) a due obseruation of the said Orders.

And for that it is to be doubted, that the said Fishmongers, vpon the obseruation of the said Orders, will take occasion thereby to enhance the prices aswel of fresh as of Sea fish: It is thought meete, that the L. Maior shall take order with the said Fishmongers, that aswell the Salt as fresh fish shall be vttered at reasonable prices.

And it is ordered, that no Butchers shall kill any Beeces, but such as shall be specially licenced thereunto, without any fraud, for the furnishing of such ships as shall be lawfully employed by Sea, either in the way of traffique, or otherwise. And that such Butchers as shall be licenced within the Liberties by the head officers of the Liberties to kill any flesh, shall euery fourteene dayes at the least, giue a true certificat vnto the Lord Maior and head officers of the places exempt, of such numbers of Weales, Lambs, and Huttons, as shall be by them weekly killed: to the end, there may be a true certificat made euery fiftene dayes vnto y^e Lords and others of her Maiesties Priuie Councill, what numbers of the seuerall kindes aboue mentioned shall be killed, either within the Citie, or places exempt.

And as these Orders are expressly deuised to be executed in the Citie of London, and places neere to the same, so her Maiesties pleasure and commandement is, that the execution of these or like Orders be performed by the commandement of her Maiesties Lieutenants to be sent to the Iustices of the Peace, in all Shires within their rule, and to all other Officers in Townes corporate, or in any Liberties, with like order for bonds to be taken to her Maiesties vse.

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